1	2	3	4	5
10.	Tripura	301032	479428	59.26
11.	Uttarakhand*	—	890667	—
	TOTAL HILLY AREA:	5848870	6304543	22.70

*Total and percentages excludes Uttarakhand as comparative data is not available.

Use of sub-standard pesticides

148. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers in the country lose their crops worth several crore annually due to use of sub-standard pesticides and insecticides;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any proper check on the manufacturers and distributors of pesticides and insecticides on the quality of their products, the farmers who are using such products are badly affected; and

(d) if so, the details of corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government has received representations from the pesticide industry regarding manufacture and sale of spurious pesticides in the market. A news item published in the newspaper 'Business Standard' dated 22/09/2008 had mentioned annual crop loss worth Rs. 6,000 crore due to spurious pesticides.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Quality of pesticides is checked by the State Governments through regular drawal and analysis of pesticide samples by Insecticide Inspectors, Insecticide Analysts and Pesticide Testing Laboratories under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. 21 States and one UT have set up 55 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories with an annual capacity of analyzing over 52,940 pesticide samples. Two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur with annual capacity of 2,000 samples supplement the resources of States/UTs in analysis of pesticides. Besides, the Government has set up a Central Insecticides Laboratory at Faridabad as referral laboratory.

Demand of Bt. Cotton seeds in the country

149. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Bt. Cotton seeds demand in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Institute of Cotton Research has developed indigenous Bt. Cotton seeds for distribution to farmers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that with the use of above seeds, farmers have to use very little fertilizer and pesticides and thereby a farmer can save nearly Rs. 4,000 per acre in the first year itself;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how the Ministry is planning to distribute the above seeds to farmers, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Based on information of area under Bt. Cotton received from States, the estimated quantity of Bt. Cotton seeds sold to the farmers during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has informed that the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has developed indigenous Bt. Cotton seeds of BN Bt. Cotton (a selection from Bikaneri Narma) and a hybrid called NHH-44 Bt. Cotton. Farmers may save on account of seed cost and pesticides by the cultivation of BN Bt. Cotton variety. The saving on seed cost and insecticides is estimated to be about Rs. 4000/ per acre. The use of insecticides will be less on the BN Bt. Cotton variety since it has better tolerance to bollworms.

(e) Andhra Pradesh State Seeds Development Corporation has placed a demand with CICR, Nagpur for BN Bt. Cotton Seeds.

Statement

Bt. Cotton seeds supplied by various private Seed Companies during last three years

(In Quintals)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2006	2007	2008
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7396	11261	11756
2.	Gujarat	4534	4826	14625
3.	Karnataka	833	1650	1823
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3488	5400	5738
5.	Maharashtra	18619	28823	32400
6.	Tamil Nadu	450	518	793

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Punjab	1800	5513	6053
8.	Haryana	563	3135	3938
9.	Rajasthan	43	436	1361
	TOTAL:	37726	61562	78487

Funds released for rabi and kharif crops

150. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government has released for the kharif and rabi season for the crops production in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the details thereof especially in rural agency areas like Andhra Pradesh in East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Khammam districts where SC/ST people are working in fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Settlement of dues of Andhra Pradesh Government

151. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government to settle dues of Rs. 62.00 crores towards procurement of maize under Minimum Support Price Scheme (MSPS) to Markfed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released so far to Markfed on the above said request; and

(d) by when this demand is likely to be met fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has preferred claims for Rs.48 crores towards procurement of maize under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Government of India have forwarded its views regarding the admissible amount against the claims for KMS 2003-04 and KMS 2004-05 and has sought comments of the State Government to finalize the admissible amount. Claims for KMS 2005-06 are under process for similar action.

(d) The admissible amount against these claims will be finalized only after the receipt of the response from the State Government.